

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-53**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE  
COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF  
BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA  
SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING  
OF THE LOW INCOME HOME  
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
(LIHEAP); PROVIDING FOR AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Biscayne Park recognizes utility service to be a vital key to the health, safety and well-being of Florida households and families; and

**WHEREAS**, poverty, unemployment and the slow economic recovery remain persistent national problems for many, and household expenses remain a burden on low-income households; and

**WHEREAS**, low-income families in Florida disproportionately spend about three times more of their income on basic energy services than the typical middle-income American family; and

**WHEREAS**, homes in low-income and minority communities severely lack energy efficiency features that enable lower energy bills; and

**WHEREAS**, LIHEAP provides vital heating and cooling assistance to low-income families, including working-poor households, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the severe constraints on state budgets and the increased strain on the nation's support system provided by nonprofit, faith-based and other community organizations have reduced other resources available for energy assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary Federal program providing assistance to low-income households to pay high heating bills is the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been  
2 an effective and successful program in meeting the energy needs of low-income elderly,  
3 disabled, veterans and poor working households, and those making the difficult transition  
4 from welfare to work, throughout the United States, including Florida; and

5           **WHEREAS**, LIHEAP is not an entitlement, but rather a targeted block grant program  
6 which provides flexible Federal-State partnerships and is the foundation for many programs  
7 authorized by state public utility commissions to assist low-income customers to meet their  
8 bill payment obligations through direct assistance; to prevent service terminations during  
9 cold and hot weather emergencies; to make the transition from public assistance to economic  
10 self-reliance; to help low-income households remain economically self-sufficient; and

11           **WHEREAS**, federal LIHEAP funding has declined from \$5.1 billion in 2010 to \$3.4  
12 billion in 2015; and

13           **WHEREAS**, less than 135,000 Florida households received LIHEAP assistance in  
14 2014, or less than ten (10%) of all eligible; and

15           **WHEREAS**, according to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, many  
16 low-income families “will have few choices but to cut back on essential necessities, such as  
17 medicine, food, and clothing”; and

18           **WHEREAS**, The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) and  
19 other consumer advocate groups support increased LIHEAP funding and have asked that  
20 LIHEAP funding be increased to \$4.7 billion for FY 2016, which is the fully authorized  
21 funding level approved in the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and

22  
23           **WHEREAS**, another impactful solution to increase Florida’s share of funding, without  
24 increasing the overall federal LIHEAP budget, is for Congressional budget appropriators to  
25 simply “follow enabling law” – the allocation formula actually prescribed by Congress.  
26 Florida and other states (especially warm weather states) in great need would see a  
27 significant increase in their LIHEAP share, as the enabling law recognizes the dangers of  
28 extreme heat as well as extreme cold. It also factors in energy costs and the most recent  
29 demographics of population and poverty. In fact, the Congressional Research Service’s latest  
30 (June 25, 2015) estimate confirmed that Florida would conservatively gain an additional

1 \$38.5 million in LIHEAP funding - or 55% - if appropriations adhered to LIHEAP's enabling  
2 law. This is with no increase in the current federal funding total of \$3.39 billion.

3  
4 **NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE**  
5 **COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, AS**  
6 **FOLLOWS:**

7 **Section 1.** The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified as true and  
8 correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

9 **Section 2.** The Village Commission of the Village of Biscayne Park urges  
10 the Appropriations Committee of the United States House of Representatives and Congress  
11 to appropriate LIHEAP funding of at least \$3.39 billion in the FY 2016 budget; and that  
12 Congress follow the enabling law when determining appropriations by state.

13 **Section 3.** That a copy of this resolution be sent to all members of  
14 Congress, seeking their support continued funding for this program.

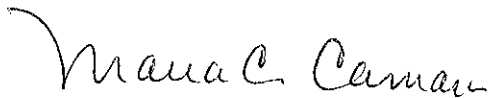
15 **Section 4.** This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

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17 PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

18  
19 **The foregoing resolution upon being**  
20 **put to a vote, the vote was as follows:**

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22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 David Coviello, Mayor

24  
25 Attest:

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28 \_\_\_\_\_  
29 Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk

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32  
33 Approved as to form:

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36 \_\_\_\_\_  
37 John J. Hearn, Village Attorney  
38

Mayor Coviello: Yes  
Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes  
Commissioner Jonas: Yes  
Commissioner Ross: Yes  
Commissioner Watts: Yes